GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:259
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
REVISION OF BELOW POVERTY LINE LIST
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have recently submitted a revised list of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families to the Union Government in order to increase the number of BPL families presently represented in the central data and have urged to allocate more foodgrains and kerosene oil as per the revised list;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of foodgrains and kerosene oil allocated for distribution under the public distribution system in each State of the country during each of the last three years and in the current year;

(d) whether some of the States have failed to lift foodgrains and kerosene oil allocated to them for BPL and Above Poverty Line (APL) families; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 259 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 17.03.2008 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a)&(b): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. Similarly allocation of PDS Subsidized Kerosene Oil (SKO) is made by the Government of India to different States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under PDS for cooking and illumination only.

The responsibility for identification of eligible BPL and AAY families within the respective number of BPL households estimated by the Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them, allocation of food grains within the State/UT and proper distribution of allocated TPDS foodgrains as well as kerosene to eligible families through fair price shops/kerosene dealers rests with State/UT Governments. A statement indicating State-wise numbers of households, BPL households accepted by the Government of India and ration cards actually issued by State/UT Governments is in Annexure-I.

The statement shows that 18 State-UTs have issued ration cards within limits accepted by Government of India and 17 State/UT Governments have issued ration cards in excess of limits approved by Government of India for allocation of foodgrains under TPDS. A number of State Governments have requested to enhance allocation of Foodgrains to their States on the basis of the higher number of BPL cards issued by them. Statement mentioning States and UT requesting for higher allocation of foodgrains for BPL families is at Annexure-II.

Such requests received earlier were referred to Planning Commission. However, the Planning Commission has informed that refixing the number of BPL households for TPDS should involve not only growth in population but also change in incidence of poverty, so there is no justification to revise the support under TPDS.

At present, foodgrains are allocated to the States on the basis of number of BPL households based on poverty estimates of Planning Commission for 1993-94 and population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 01-03-2000. As per poverty estimates released by the Planning Commission in March, 2007, the percentage of below poverty population has come down to 27.5% in 2004-05, from 36% in 1993-94. Government of India is continuing allocations based on 1993-94 poverty estimates and March, 2000 population only.

There has been no reduction in the PDS SKO to States/UTs after the financial year 2004-05, including additional allocation made during that year. Allocations for 2007-08 have also been maintained at the same level.

For ensuring availability and distribution of essential commodities to targeted families, the Government issued the Public Distribution

System (Control) Order, 2001. As provided under it, State and UT Governments are mandated to ensure that the commodities (foodgrains etc.) allocated under the TPDS reach the targeted families and no leakages/diversions take place.

(c), (d) & (e): Allocation and offtake of foodgrains (Rice & Wheat) under Targeted Public Distribution System during last three years as well as in current year (upto January, 2008) are at Annexure - III to VI. Offtake of foodgrains under TPDS in some States/UTs has been less than the allocation made. State-wise details of PDS SKO allocated during the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 State-wise details of PDS SKO uplifted by the State/UTs during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 are at Annexure - VII and VIII respectively.